

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 02567 110626Z

14

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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R 101638Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2235

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 2567

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PINT, SH, RH

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARY FOURIE:
RHODESIA

REF: PRETORIA 2565

1. WHEN I MET WITH FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARY FOURIE THIS MORNING (JULY 10), I ASKED HOW THE SITUATION IN RHODESIA LOOKED FOLLOWING THE ENNALS VIST AND THE KAUNDA-NYERERE-ET AL MEETING. FOURIE SAID THAT BASIC PROBLEM CONTINUES TO BE TO GET IAN SMITH AND THE ANC TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE. SAG IS CONVINCED THAT SMITH WILL MEET WITH ANC TO INITIATE TALKS WHEN ANC IN POSITION TO DO SO, BUT SAG DOES NOT
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PAGE 02 PRETOR 02567 110626Z

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GOOD READING ON HOW FAR SMITH IS PREPARED TO GO IN ACCOMMODATING ANC VIEWS. ON VENUE SMITH SO FAR INSISTS THAT TALKS BE HELD IN RHODESIA, ALTHOUGH HE TOLD PRIME MINISTER VORSTER THAT HE IS PREPARED TO GO TO LONDON FOR RIBBON TYING ONCE HE AND ANC HAVE WORKED OUT AGREEMENT.

2. FOURIE SAID THAT SAG HAD MISCALCULATED ABILITY OF PRESIDENT KAUNDA AND ASSOCIATES TO GET THE ANC TO PULL ITSELF TOGETHER AND TO CONFERENCE TABLE. STRATEGY HAD BEEN FOR SAG TO "PRESSURE" SMITH INTO ACCOMMODATION WHILE KAUNDA PERFORMED LIKE SERVICE WITH ANC. THEY HAD HOPED TO BRING THE TWO SIDES TO A SETTLEMENT EARLIER THIS YEAR BUT WERE NOT SUCCESSFUL, PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE ANC HAS NOT BEEN IN A POSITION TO NEGOTIATE.

3. NOW THERE IS LESS COHESION IN ANC THAN BEFORE. SMITH AWARE OF THIS AND IS BIDDING HIS TIME. NEW WRINKLE, ACCORDING TO FOURIE, IS ANC UNWILLINGNESS TO MEET IN RHODESIA. WHILE SITHOLE WAS "OUT OF CIRCULATION" VENUE WAS NOT A PROBLEM. WITH HIS RELEASE TO ATTEND RECENT DARES SALAAM OAU MEETING (WHICH SAG PRESSURED SMITH TO DO), SITHOLE HAS WORKED HIS WAY BACK INTO PROMINENT POSITION IN ANC AND IS UNWILLING TO RETURN TO RHODESIA FOR TALKS FEARING ARREST. THIS MATTER WHICH KAUNDA-NYERERE-ET AL WILL HAVE TO WORK OUT.

4. DISCUSSIONS WITH ENNALS CENTERED ON GIVING HIM SAG ASSESSMENT AS DESCRIBED IN PRECEDING PARAGRAPHS. ENNALS ASKED VORSTER WHAT HMG COULD DO TO HELP GET TALKS STARTED. VORSTER, ACCORDING TO FOURIE, TOLD HIM TO USE HIS INFLUENCE WITH KAUNDA GROUP, AND DIRECTLY WITH ANC TO EXTENT IT COULD DO SO, TO PERSUADE ANC TO PULL ITSELF TOGETHER. ONCE THIS IS ACCOMPLISHED, THEY COULD BRING SMITH TO NEGOTIATING TABLE WHERE POSITIONS COULD BE DEFINED, GAP BETWEEN THEM ESTABLISHED, AND "PERSUASION" FOCUSED IN EFFORT TO BRING ABOUT A SETTLEMENT. BOWDLER

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